



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger      V. Pres. – Dave Hacker  
Treasurer – Robert Shepard      Secretary – Dale Brier

**July 10, 2013 1:00 pm**  
Vigo County Annex building  
147 Oak Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

## Attendance

### Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Keith Poole (proxy)  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Cass County- Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd  
Gibson County - Bill Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County - Rama Sobhani  
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen  
Parke County - Keith Ruble (proxy)  
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel  
Vermillion County - Larry Southard  
Vigo County - Kara Kish  
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp  
Warren County - Steve Eberly  
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

### DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp - Nature Preserves  
Angie Tilton - Fish and Wildlife

### Guests:

Mary Kramer - Art Spaces  
Adam Crossman - Vigo Co. Parks  
Amber Slaughterbeck - Vigo Co. Parks  
Susanne Schwibs - WTIU  
Marianne Woodruff - WTIU

### Non-Voting Members Present:

Bill Smith - INDOT

### Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew  
Wells County - Scott Elzey

### Counties not participating

Jay County

## Meeting minutes

### Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

In President John Gettinger's absence, Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. All Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC) members and guests introduced themselves. Kara welcomed everyone to Vigo County. Dale Brier read the proxies. Ron Zartman gave his proxy to Keith Poole, Penny Cox gave her proxy to Keith Ruble, Ryan Noblitt and Scott Elzey gave their proxies to the president.

### Comments from Visitors or Guests

Wabash River movie idea (Marianne Woodruff, WTIU)

Marianne gave a brief presentation about a new Wabash River video. They are requesting a \$6000 sponsorship from the WRHCC. WTIU is the PBS station in Bloomington IN. They are looking for four partners to each put in \$6000 for the project; the total cost will be about \$75,000. Susanne Schwibs, the director, gave the commission a presentation about the vision for the one-hour video. The new documentary will be more cinematic and poetic than journalistic and it will be filmed in high-definition.

The commission was very interested in funding the project and will formally vote on it at the next meeting.

#### Art Spaces project (Mary Kramer )

Mary is looking for sponsorship funding for a sculpture at Fairbanks Park in Terre Haute. The project recognizes Paul Dresser and the state song *On the Banks of the Wabash River, Far Away*. They have raised some funding are currently looking for an artist. Art Spaces has raised \$70,000 of the \$80,000 projected cost, they are requesting \$1000 from the WRHCC. The commission will formally vote on it at the next meeting.

*Note: This project is not related to the Watermark project that put in glass art at Fairbanks Park a few months ago that received WRHCC funding.*

#### Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) update (Angie Tilton)

Angie gave a presentation and an update on the Healthy Rivers Initiative. She expanded on some of the information that was given at the pre meeting tour of some of the property that HRI has recently purchased. For the most current updates, see the HRI website at [www.in.gov/dnr/6498.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/6498.htm)  
Dale mentioned that it would be a good idea for the Wabash River grant program to encourage projects in the HRI areas.

#### Review and Approval of May 8, 2013 Minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

#### President's Report

None – John is on vacation.

#### Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Dale had a handout (see attached) with the current expenditures and revenue. The revenue continues to be strong and the expenses are under budgeted amounts. There are a few expenditures that have not been reported yet, such as some recent sponsorships. The current balance is \$594,384.21. When the grant projects are encumbered from the fund, it will reduce the balance by around \$420,000.

#### Committee Reports

**Budget** - Bob S. had a handout of the updated budget. The updates encompass the changes requested at the last meeting.

**Grants** - Kara did not have the results of the online survey, we will go over them at the next meeting. They survey asked WRHCC members to pick their top four grant project types to fund. Dale gave an update on the progress of current grants; four of the five are in the state signature process.

**Legislative** - no report, the WRHCC has no agenda at this point.

**Water Trail** - Ken E. and the group discussed the Attorney General's trips on the Wabash River. The main focus of the trip was about invasive species, Asian Carp in particular. The tour planned to meet with WRHCC members along the way. Ken had an agenda for the trip to share with everyone. Dale still has a couple of counties that need to submit information. He also stated that if the Commission wants the water trail to be a priority, they will have to put in the effort.

**Banks of the Wabash**, liaison report – Ken E. reported that there was no June meeting. The next meeting is September 21 at the Williamsport Library.

#### Old Business

**Newport Chemical Depot Land "Re-Use"** – Larry S. reported there was an article in the local paper. There will be another meeting in September.

**Year of the River Celebration** – The promotion of the events has been great.

**River Currents:** Next edition article submission deadline - no report. The proper email to send articles to is [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com).

**10 minute break**

**Sign programs** - (Sullivan County, Ken Einselen) There was no report from Sullivan county. Ken E. gave an overview and presentation of his meeting with Bill Smith and other members of INDOT. Signs for highway and state road use must meet highway grade (measurements of reflectivity and other standards). Our current signs are engineering grade and have too many minor differences. The text needs to be bigger, have better contrast, and the logos need to be standardized. The current signs will still be useable at access sites and on local roads. The signs will need to be redesigned for future projects. There was a lot of discussion on designs and color. Dale mentioned that implementation of the current signs has been very slow.

**River cleanups** – Dave Hacker had a handout for the group. Wabash County had their river cleanup featured in the most recent issue of *Outdoor Indiana* magazine. Mike Beauchamp had information about a free campsite in Wabash County along the river for paddlers. Huntington, Wabash and Wells Counties will all be having river cleanups on Saturday, July 27. Parke County also had a cleanup recently, mostly river bank cleanup.

**Sponsorship changes** – The new format is in place. The group discussed the pros and cons of waiting until next meeting to take a vote on funding. Does the WRHCC need to offer a letter of intent to some of the applicants? Options for immediate funding were also discussed. At this time, no changes were recommended.

**2014 appointments** – Dale reminded the WRHCC members that membership term are up at the end of this calendar year. Please begin talking to your County Commissioners if you wish to remain on the Wabash Commission.

**2014 Retreat** – The retreat is planned for March 11-12, 2014. This conflicts with Purdue Road School and at least four members of the WRHCC would have a conflict. The retreat may have to be moved to a different day.

### **New Business**

Master Plan discussion – Dave handed out a summary of the nine action plan items from the 2004 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Master Plan. Dave gave a brief history of the WRHCC. Is this corridor plan something the WRHCC needs to update? Is it fine the way it is? Larry S. thinks it is good and may only need minor updates to be brought up to date. Dale reminded everyone that the master plan is a plan for the Wabash River Corridor, it is not a plan for the Commission. It was not written to direct the Commission's actions, it was written as a plan to enhance the river. Dave commented that neither local communities nor the WHRCC is actively using the document. Arin said that this should be used for the Commission to make plans from. In the past, the Commission did that. The spring retreats were planning retreats where the action items from the Corridor Plan were used to create goals for the WRHCC. The follow through on those plans has been lacking, the Commission has moved away from those types of retreats and plans. The group discussed the WRHCC becoming an advocate for action items in the plan rather than trying to directly accomplish them. The group would like to have a moderator for the spring retreat. Dave ended the conversation by asking the WRHCC what do they want to be.

### **Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

Upcoming committee meetings – Kara announced the Grants Committee will meet soon. It will be a conference call much like the others.

Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc. – none

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests - George M. brought up a large trash burning facility near the river in Carroll county is being considered. Should the WRHCC be doing something about it? Arin said the planning is still preliminary, no facts or formal plans about the plant are published. The Commission discussed if that was the proper role of the WRHCC to get involved with such topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35.

**Next Meeting:** September 11, 2013 1:00 p.m.  
Vermillion County

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY 2013

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		214,194.04	
			Fund Balance:	
			6/30/2012	415,746.93 From Bob, not verified
			FY13 revenues	214,194.04
			FY13 Expenses	35,556.76
			6/30/2013	594,384.21
			No encumbrances.	
			\$420,000 will be be encumbered for grant projects soon	
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	13,936.96		
516003	Payroll Social Security	976.49		
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em CONtr	418.09		
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	1,351.87		
518105	Anthem CDHP1	752.69		
518107	Anthem CDHP 2	420.99		
518151	Anthem Trad 2	873.24		
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	18.84		
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	105.93		
518800	Anthem Vision	10.87		
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	2.48		
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	243.86		
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	106.81		
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	85.06		
519725	Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	21.88		
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	289.26		
546002	Off-Office Supplies	479.25		
547022	SpOp-Uniforms&Related	852		
547026	SpOp-Awards & Gifts	135		
547038	SpOp-Recreation	134.98		
555541	Camera equipment	2,231.13		
591024	NonRealeEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	198.3		
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	7,589.12		
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	182		
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	468.07		
599026	AdmOp-Dues & Subscriptions	500		
599038	AdmOp-Postage Mail Express	12		
599042	AdmOp-Freight & Express	23.36		
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	3,000.00		
659410	Postage	136.23		
Total FY13 Expense		35,556.76		

DNR payroll	19,326.06
travel costs	8,726.75
sponsorships	3,500.00
operating	4003.95
total	35,556.76

payment for website work to Communications